Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) is likely to be synchronised by March, 1998.

(b) The bottleneck faced by DVC in executing the project include delays in land acquisition, slow progress by suppliers of equipment and the contractors responsible for various work packages, industrial relations problems and financial constraints.

(c) The steps taken by the Union Government to help DVC overcome the bottlenecks included:—

— intervention to settle the unresolved contractual/ extra contractual matters between DVC and B.H.E.L. which is responsible for supply and erection of Boiler and TG set for the unit.

— requesting the State government to maintain law & order and assist DVC in maintaining a good industrial relations climate at work sites.

— asking DVC to improve its process of contract management in future.

— increased budgetary support for the project during 1997-98.

Unemployed Youths

85. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of unemployed youths in Kashmir have joined militancy because of their being unemployed; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring them back to the mainstream and the success achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) Government is aware of the unemployment problem in the State of J & K. Recruitment drives have been launched by the Central and State Government for the same and also by providing avenues of self employment.

A scheme has been formulated for surrender and rehabilitation of the surrendered militants with the main objectives of offering inducement and incentives to militants to leave the path of violence and join the main stream and to ensure that the surrendered militants do not revert to militancy. The impact of the surrender policy has been encouraging so far. 1317 militants have surrendered from August 15, 1995 to September 30, 1997 i.e. after announcement of the policy.

Revised Interim Relief

86. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government propose to pay revised interim relief to the journalists and non-journalists of newspaper and news agencies, keeping in view the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) whether there is any proposal to review and revise the pay scales of journalists and non-journalists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the date from which interim relief is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Matter concerning revision of pay scales etc. of journalists and non-journalists is with the Wage Boards set up under the Chairmanship of Justice R.K. Manisana Singh and the Boards have yet to submit their final recommendations.

(c) Does not arises

Contaminated I.V. Fluid

87. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether contaminated I.V. fluid is still being used in the Government hospitals in Delhi unabatedly;

(b) if so, the number of cases that have come to light during the last one year, hospital-wise;

(c) the firm from which the contaminated I.V. fluid purchased along with the rate at which fluid was purchased and how does that tally with the rate of reputed manufacturers; and

(d) the steps taken to weed out corruption in the matter of purchase of drugs and other items by the Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) No, Sir, as far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned.

(b) Three cases of contaminated I.V. Fluid were reported in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. The I.V. Fluid of these batch numbers were immediately withdrawn.

(c) The I.V. Fluids were purchased through Medical Stores Depot @ Rs. 8/- per bottle of Dextrose 5 per cent and from Kendriya Bhandar @ Rs. 14.70/- per bottle for Electrolyte M. Electrolyte P. The I.V. Fluids were manufactured by Core Health Care.

(d) The Central Government hospitals are required to follow the prescribed procedure for procurement of stores.

Homoeopathy System of Medicine

88. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4630 dated May 5, 1997 and state:

(a) whether the required information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) The complete information has not yet been received from the concerned authorities who have been reminded. As soon as the information is available it will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Minimum Wages

89. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 118 dated July 23, 1997 and state:

(a) whether a majority of industries in Orissa are not paying minimum wages to their workers and the labour courts have failed in implementing various labour laws; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that labour laws are strictly implemented by the Industrialists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) In Orissa most of the industries enscheduled under Minimum Wages Act are paying notified minimum wages to their workers. Whenever any case of non-payment is detected by the field officers necessary legal action is taken against such defaulting employers.

(b) Does not arise.

Tailpool Dam

90. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restart the work at Tailpool Dam Power Project of Damodar Valley Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on this project is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) A final decision has not been taken by the Government so far to ask the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) to restart the work at the Tailpool Dam Project at Panchet in Bihar. The position will be reviewed on receiving the views of the Bihar Government, which is one of the participating Governments of DVC.

DGMS-Eastern Coalfields

91. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Mines Safety has received any representation seeking information about granting of prior permission to Eastern Coalfields for construction of schools, colleges, hospitals, quarters, stadiums etc. in coal bearing areas;

(b) if so, he details thereof;

(c) whether the desired information have been furnished;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the information is likely to be furnished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Medical Equipments

92. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of various hospitals in country for whom medical equipments and instruments have been imported during the last ten years alongwith the cost of each equipment/instrument and the total amount of duty levied on these items by the Government;